GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:541
ANSWERED ON:12.04.2017
Telecom Services in LWE Affected Areas
Ram Shri Janak

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-availability of proper network connectivity of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has become a serious problem in various States, including Bihar and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the said issue is exacerbated in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of Gopalganj, Jadopur, Sipaya, Hathua, Baraipatti, etc. and if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote telephone, mobile and internet services in LWE affected areas of Bihar?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.541 FOR 12TH APRIL, 2017 REGARDING "TELECOM SERVICES IN LWE AFFECTED AREAS ".

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) had made no investment in the up-gradation of mobile network for a long period of time. However, in the last three years 20,174 2G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) and 20453 3G BTSs have been added in the network. BSNL Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network is often damaged due to construction of road etc, leading to poor customer satisfaction. Despite this, services provided by BSNL are in general meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(b) Gopalganj district is not in the list of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts in Bihar. 43 mobile BTSs are operational in Gopalganj district which are working satisfactorily, covering Jadopur, Sipaya and Braipatti Gram Panchayats and Hathua Block of the district. However, some times on accounts of ongoing road construction work on Chapra, Siwan, Gopalganj route, network outage happens due to damage of optical fibre cable. In such events immediate action is taken by BSNL to restore the network. BSNL has also planned to connect some BTSs on radio link to further improve the reliability.

(c) The Government had sanctioned a project to install mobile towers at 2199 locations, including 184 locations in Bihar as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 10 States, which are affected by the Left Wing Extremism (LWE). Mobile towers at all 184 locations in Bihar are operational. In addition, to increase the coverage in LWE affected areas, Government has sanctioned additional 156 locations, including 66 locations in Bihar for provision of Mobile Services.

BharatNet is being implemented for providing 100 mbps broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country, with phase-I to connect 1,00,000 GPs being implemented currently. Out of 8,380 Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Bihar, 5,750 GPs have been taken up in BharatNet Phase-1. As on 31.03.2017, trenching and ducting has been completed for 11,294 Km (4,780 GPs), Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid for 12,172 Km (4,213 GPs) and 443 GPs have been provided with broadband connectivity.